# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1459
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
INDO RUSSIA ECONOMIC COOPERATION
V. VETRISELVAN

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Russian President during his recent visit to India had expressed dissatisfaction over the volume of trade between India and Russia;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to increase the trade volume between the two countries; and

(c) the details of the trade agreements signed during his visit ?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) During the State Visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation from October 2-5, 2000, the Indian and Russian sides acknowledged that the volume of bilateral trade did not correspond to its true potential.

(b) The leaders of the two countries directed the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission for Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC) to draw up an Action Plan for further intensification of trade and economic relations. During the 7th Session of the IRIGC, which was held in Moscow on January 15, 2001, the Indian and Russian sides agreed to take appropriate measures towards further expansion and diversification of trade and economic cooperation between India and the Russian Federation. The issues considered, inter alia, included exports from India to the Russian Federation of additional quantities of tea, possibility of export of agricultural goods, export of pharmaceuticals and hi-tech items and import from the Russian Federation into India of rough diamonds. Cooperation in the energy sector between India and the Russian Federation, where there are considerable prospects, was also discussed. Both sides also agreed that all efforts would be made both at the Governmental level and through increased interaction among Indian and Russian businessmen to prepare for trading through normal commercial channels when the annual Rupee debt repayments get considerably reduced and ultimately depleted.

(c) A total of 17 Agreements/bilateral documents were signed during the visit to India by the President of the Russian Federation. The most significant of these is the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation. The document defines the broad contours of Indo-Russian bilateral relations in the 21st century, including in the area of trade and economic cooperation. The other Agreements in this field were those relating to the processing and trade of rough natural diamonds and precious metals, in the energy sector and in science and technology. The Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit also touched upon trade and economic cooperation.